

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 088916  
ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 NSF-02 PM-05 COME-00 DODE-00  
/029 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/MST:WERB:MJB  
APPROVED BY OES/OFA/MST:WERB  
ARA/AND/E - MR. ALLITTO  
-----040734 071655Z /47

R 062136Z APR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

UNCLAS STATE 088916

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TOCY, EC

SUBJECT: R/V ALPHA HELIX CLEARANCE REQUEST, 15 JUNE -  
28 JULY 1978

1. R/V ALPHA HELIX, A PRIVATE VESSEL OPERATED BY SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY AND FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, IS PLANNING TO CONDUCT MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON AND AROUND ISLA ISABELA AND ISLA FERNADINA. THE PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH IS TO STUDY BOTH THE LAND IGUANA, CONOLOPHUS SUBCRISTATUS, AND THE MARINE IGUANA, AMBLYRHYNCHUS CRISTATUS, TO DETERMINE (1) THE ENERGETICS OF ANIMALS IN THE FIELD, PARTICULARLY THE COST INVOLVED IN FEEDING, DIVING, AND REPRODUCTIVE BEHAVIOR; (2) DIGESTIVE ABILITY OF THESE ANIMALS; AND (3) THE RATES AND PATTERNS OF ELECTROLYTE AND NITROGEN EXCRETION IN THE FIELD. THE INFLUENCE OF BODY TEMPERATURE ON THESE FACTORS WILL ALSO BE INVESTIGATED. A VERY DETAILED PROSPECTUS ON THE SCIENTIFIC PURPOSE IS BEING POUCHED WITH A SHIP'S TRACK SHOWING THE RESEARCH AREA. RESEARCH WILL TAKE PLACE  
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PAGE 02 STATE 088916

ON THE BEACHES AND NEARSHORE COASTAL WATERS AND WILL INVOLVE SCUBA GEAR.

2. DR. GEORGE BARTHOLOMEW OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IS THE CHIEF SCIENTIST. THE PRINCIPAL SCIENTISTS ARE

ALBERT BENNETT, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, FRED WHITE OF

SCRIPPS, AND WILLIAM DAWSON OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN. ONE BERTH IS AVAILABLE FOR AN ECUADOREAN PARTICIPANT AND ALL DATA RESULTS WILL BE SHARED.

3. DEPT ASSUMES THAT ALL NECESSARY PERMITS WILL BE OBTAINED FROM THE PARK AUTHORITIES AND THAT THE CHARLES DARWIN RESEARCH STATION WILL BE INFORMED OF THE RESEARCH AS A NORMAL PART OF GOE PROCESSING OF CLEARANCE REQUEST. PLEASE REPORT IF THIS IS NOT THE CASE.

4. PORT CALLS ARE PLANNED AT ISLA SAN CRISTOBOL ON 16 JUNE AND 27 JULY WHICH WILL BE ARRANGED BY SHIP'S AGENT. ECUADOREAN PARTICIPANT SHOULD PLAN ON EMBARKING AND DISEMBARKING AT THIS PORT.

5. ALPHA HELIX'S CAPTAIN IS ROBERT C. NEWBEGIN. THERE IS A CREW OF 12 AND SCIENTIFIC PARTY OF 11. ALPHA HELIX IS 294 GROSS TONS, 133 FT. LONG AND HAS A 12 FT. DRAFT. RADIO CALL SIGN IS KLFK AND SHIP MONITORS 2182 KHZ AND VHF CHANNEL 16 WHILE UNDERWAY.

6. ACTION: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO SEEK CLEARANCE FOR R/V ALPHA HELIX TO CONDUCT MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN ECUADOREAN TERRITORIAL WATERS AND TO SECURE NECESSARY PERMITS. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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